

A M E R I C A N
HISTORICAL AND LITERARY CURIOSITIES;

CONSISTING OF

FAC-SIMILES OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE EVENTS
OF THE REVOLUTION,
&c. &c.

WITH A VARIETY OF

RELIQUES, ANTIQUITIES,

AND

MODERN AUTOGRAPHS.

COLLECTED AND EDITED

BY

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AND

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ASSISTED BY AN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN ANTIQUARIANS.

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AMERICAN HISTORICAL CURIOSITIES, Part 6.

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Curiosities, Part 6., by John Jay Smith and John F. Watson

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AMERICAN HISTORICAL AND LITERARY CURIOSITIES

By John Jay Smith and John F. Watson

Part 6.

P R E F A C E

TO THE FIFTH EDITION.

FIRST SERIES.

THE past has a charm for Americans, as well as for the inhabitants of countries whose history extends far into the shadowy and unknown; *our* early and romantic past has the merit of being known and truly related; everything which adds to these truths is sought for with avidity by the curious and intelligent inquirer. We have now many autograph collectors, who may be viewed in the light of preservers of documents which would otherwise perish or be dispersed; to few, comparatively, are their treasures revealed. It was suggested, therefore, that a few of the most rare and curious "Historical and Literary Curiosities" in the possession of individuals, should be grouped for the amusement and instruction of the present and of future generations, who may well know from printed accounts *what* things were done, but who can also thus learn *how* they were done.

Nearly all the articles in the present collection have been taken by competent artists from the originals of which they purport to be fac-similes. Considerable labor and trouble have been expended in collecting together the varied materials here presented; but it has been with the Editors a "labor of love," rewarded by the pleasure of the pursuit.

The work having been received with extraordinary favor by the public, and a fifth edition being called for, some additions and alterations have been made, which will create increased interest in the volume.

J. JAY SMITH,
JOHN F. WATSON.

* * Fully to understand the work, it is necessary, in turning over the pages, to have constant reference to the Table of Contents, where will be found many explanations for which space could not be found on the plates.

NOTE TO THE SIXTH EDITION.

Notwithstanding the announcement in the second series of this work that the first would not be reprinted, the public has demanded a sixth edition, which has been entirely redrawn, and many highly interesting additions have been made.

PHILADELPHIA, October, 1860.

Part Six

Plates 36 and 37.—Fac-similes of General Washington's handwriting from the age of twelve to within four days of his death. Among the signatures is one to a Lottery Ticket. The latter in the possession of G. P. Putnam.
In the possession of Robert Gilmer, Esq.

Plate 38.—Picture of Governor Carver's Chair brought over in the May-Flower, from a drawing by Weir, with the fac-similes of the Signatures of the Governors of Massachusetts under the first Charter, and the Governors of Plymouth Colony.
Furnished by Isaac P. Davis, Esq., of Boston.

Plate 39.—The original advertisement of the Committee for Tarring and Feathering, addressed to the Delaware Pilots respecting the arrival of the Tea ship Polly, &c. In the possession of J. Jay Smith.

Plate 40.—Cream Pot presented to his executor, Henry Hill, Esq., by Dr. Franklin; motto, "Keep bright the chain."
In the possession of Mrs. Hannah B. Mott, Burlington, N. J.

Dr. Franklin's celebrated Epitaph in fac-simile.

Plate 41.—History of the Song of "Hail Columbia," in the handwriting of the author, Judge Hopkinson.
In the possession of Mrs. Hopkinson.

Plate 42.—Commission of Benedict Arnold as Major-General, dated May 2d, 1777, signed by John Hancock, President of Congress.
In the possession of James Rogers, Esq., of New Castle, Del.

Plate 43.—Profile of Thomas Moore, the poet.
Letter from Moore to Joseph Denny, dated in New York.

[Plate 36.](#)

[Plate 37.](#)

[Plate 38.](#)

[Plate 39.](#)
[43.](#)

[Plate 40.](#)

[Plate 41.](#)

[Plate 42.](#)

[Plate](#)

Execution on the said Judgment in 1744 at the age of 12.
To W^m F. Constable

You are hereby commanded to attach the Estate of G. T. as much thereof as will be of Value Sufficient to Satisfy and Pay the within Judgment and to provide that the same may be liable to further proceedings therein to be had before me or some other Justice to whom you shall make a return of your proceedings herein Given under my hand this - Day of 17 -

Having the Breadth & Depth of a Piece of Timber or Stone to have how much in Length of it will make a Solid Foot

Rule Multiply one by the other and let be a Divisor to 1728

$$\begin{array}{r} 27 \text{ Inches Broad} \\ 12 \text{ Depth} \\ 324 \overline{) 1728} \\ \underline{108} \end{array}$$

Ans. 5 1/3 in Length
makes a Solid Foot

$$\begin{array}{r} 19 \text{ Inches Broad} \\ 17 \text{ Thick} \\ 323 \overline{) 1728} \\ \underline{113} \end{array}$$

Ans. 5 in Length makes
a Solid Foot

Written at the age of 13 in 1745

Survey'd For Barnaby McKendry Four Hundred acres of Watered Ungranted Land situate lying and being in the County of Frederick and in the 2^d River or Caspion and bounded as followeth Beginning at a Lyon Maple and Mountain Birch on the East Side the Run on Mountain Side Lake Ottens and Run thence N. 35° W. Two hundred and Fifty three Poles to a white oak and a black among the Short Hills thence N. 35° W. 6' Two hundred and Fifty three Poles to the Chemung oak and a white Oak thence S. 35° E. Two hundred and Fifty three Poles to two Mountain Bunches and a white Oak on the Mountain Side thence S. 35° W. Two hundred and Fifty three Poles to the Beginning this Ninth Day of November 1749

John Lomax } the Men
Edward Corde }
William Baber Marker

Washington J. C. C.
Then 17 years old.

Yours most Obedt Serv^t

1750 on his way to Fort Pitt

Washington

Enlarge

To Judge Peters of Philadelphia.
 Father of the late Reporter of the Supreme Court.

Mount Vernon in Virginia Sept^r 30th 1757.
 Dear Sir

Permit me to recommend Col. Fairfax the bearer of this to your friendly notice while he stays in Philadelphia. — He is son of our late President who is but just dead and nearly related to the present Lord Fairfax Proprietor of this Neck — Business calling him to England he is proceeding hence to New York hoping to get a Passage in the Packet or some Ship of War. & being a Stranger in your City wanted Introduction to whom then could I better introduce him than the agreeable Mr Peters. — I hope in doing this I make use of no unwelcome liberty if I do your gentle treatment of myself makes me assume it and plead my Excuse — My best respects are tendered to the Governor and I am with great truth

Y^r most Obed^t and

Obliged Hble Serv^t
 G^t Washington

Nov^r 1759
 £ 20 ths shipd my Hamburg Weigh
 for the Deliverance 21909

Nov^r 1759
 Robt Cary Esq & Comp^a
 15 ths by L. 15,731
 10 Ditto DPC & Amsh. . . . 11,209
 12 Ditto do D. Howe 13,452
 7 Ditto do J. Ofling 7,481
 10 Ditto do A. Noan 10,325
 54 Ditto in all 58,198

Henry Richardson Crap. . . 1759

DBC. No. 1. 2083
 2. 2052
 3. 1056
 3 ths. divided by . . . 3191 399
 Corn made 60. bush
 divided by 8. 7 1/2 B.
 Wheat. 28 Bush

G^t Washington
 1779

Numb. 1768.
 185

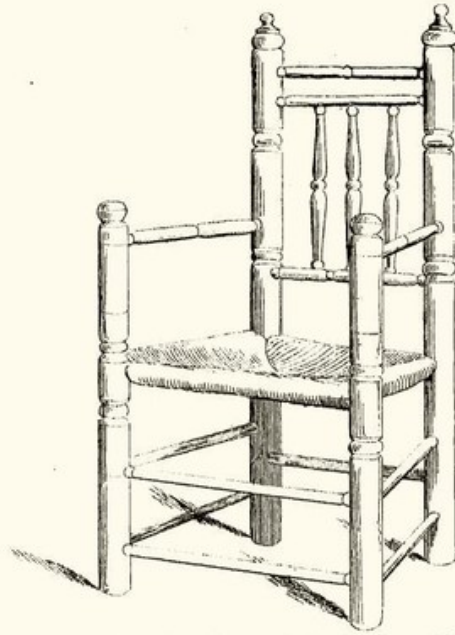
THIS TICKET (No. 185) shall entitle the Possessor to whatever PRIZE may happen to be drawn against its Number in the Mountain Road LOTTERY.

G^t Washington

buried at No. 100
 26th June 1778

Mount Vernon G^t Washington
 December 10th 1799
 Four days before his death. Aged 67.

Enlarge



Chair brought over in the Mayflower 1620
BY GOV^r JNO. CARVER
from a drawing by Wm

Governors of Massachusetts under the first charter.

Jo: Endicott Gov^r
Jo: Winthrop Gov^r
Tho: Dudley Gov^r
Jo: I. Sagoy
J. M. H.
Ri: Bellingham Gov^r
John Leverett Gov^r
S. Bradstreet

Governors of Plymouth Colony.

(John Carver's signature not found)

William. Bradford 1653
Edw: Winslow 1636
Edw. Winslow 1645
Edw: Winslow
Thomas Prence Governor 1661
Tho. Prence 1661
Josiah Dinslow 1673
Thos Dinslow
Thos Dinslow

Enlarge

T O T H E Delaware Pilots.

WE took the Pleasure, some Days since, of kindly admonishing you *to do your Duty*; if perchance you should meet with the (*Tea*,) *SHIP POLLY*, CAPTAIN AYRES; a *THREE DECKER* which is hourly expected.

We have now to add, that Matters ripen fast here; and that *much is expected from those Lads who meet with the Tea Ship*.----There is some Talk of a HANDSOME REWARD FOR THE PILOT WHO GIVES THE FIRST GOOD ACCOUNT OF HER.----How that may be, we cannot *for certain* determine: But ALL agree, that TAR and FEATHERS will be his Portion, who pilots her into this Harbour. And we will answer for ourselves, that, whoever is committed to us, as an Offender against the Rights of *America*, will experience the utmost Exertion of our Abilities; as

THE COMMITTEE FOR TARRING AND FEATHERING.

P. S. We expect you will furnish yourselves with Copies of the foregoing and following Letter; which are printed for this Purpose, that the Pilot who meets with Captain *Ayres* may favor him with a Sight

Committee of Taring and Feathering.

T O Capt. AYRES,

Of the *SHIP P O L L Y*, on a Voyage from *London* to *Philadelphia*,

S I R,

WE are informed that you have, imprudently, taken Charge of a Quantity of Tea; which has been sent out by the *India Company*, under the *Auspices of the Ministry*, as a Trial of *American* Virtue and Resolution.

Now, as your Cargo, on your Arrival here, will most assuredly bring you into hot water; and as you are perhaps a Stranger to *these Parts*, we have concluded to advise you of the present Situation of Affairs in *Philadelphia*---that, taking Time by the Forelock, you may stop short in your dangerous Errand---secure your Ship against the Rafts of combustible Matter which may be set on Fire, and turned loose against her; and more than all this, that you may preserve your own Person, from the Pitch and Feathers that are prepared for you.

In the first Place, we must tell you, that the *Pennsylvanians* are, to a Man, passionately fond of Freedom; the Birthright of *Americans*; and at all Events are determined to enjoy it.

That they sincerely believe, no Power on the Face of the Earth has a Right to tax them without their Consent,

That in their Opinion, the Tea in your Custody is designed by the Ministry to enforce such a Tax, which they will undoubtedly oppose; and in so doing, give you every possible Obstruction.

We are nominated to a very disagreeable, but necessary Service.--- To our Care are committed all Offenders against the Rights of *America*; and hapless is he, whose evil Destiny has doomed him to suffer at our Hands.

You are sent out on a diabolical Service; and if you are so foolish and obstinate as to compleat your Voyage; by bringing your Ship to Anchor in this Port; you may run such a Gauntlet, as will induce you, in your last Moments, most heartily to curse those who have made you the Dupe of their Avarice and Ambition.

What think you Captain, of a Halter around your Neck---ten Gallons of liquid Tar decanted on your Pate---with the Feathers of a dozen wild Geese laid over that to enliven your Appearance?

Only think seriously of this---and fly to the Place from whence you came--- fly without Hesitation--- without the Formality of a Protest---and above all, Captain *Ayres* let us advise you to fly without the wild Geese Feathers.

Your Friends to serve

Philadelphia, Nov. 27, 1773

THE COMMITTEE as before subscribed.

Enlarge



Cream Pot Presented to Henry Hill by D^r Franklin.

Motto. "Keep bright the chain."

Epitaph written 1728.

The Body of
 B. Franklin Printer.
 (Like the Cover of an old Book
 Its Contents turn out
 And strip of its Lettering & Gilding)
 Lies here, Food for Worms.
 But the Work shall not be lost;
 For it will, (as he believ'd) appear once more,
 In a new and more elegant Edition
 Revised and corrected,
By the Author.

Enlarge

This Song was written in the Summer of 1798 when a war with France was thought to be inevitable, Congress being then in session in Philadelphia deliberating upon that important subject. ^{and acts of hostility having actually commenced} The contest between England & France was raging, and the people of the United States were divided into parties for the one side or the other, some thinking that policy and duty required us to take part with republican France, as she was called others were for connecting ourselves with England, under the belief that she was the great preserver of good principles and safe governments. The violation of our rights by both belligerents was forcing us from the just and policy of President Washington, which was to do equal justice to both, to take part with neither, but to keep a strict honest neutrality between them. The prospect of a rupture with France was exceedingly offensive to the portion of the people which espoused her cause and the violence of the spirit of party has never risen higher I think not so high, as it did at that time on that question. The Theatre was then open in our city a young man belonging to it whose talent was as a singer was about to take his benefit. I had known him when he was at school. On this acquaintance he called on me on Saturday afternoon, his benefit being announced for the following Monday. He said he had no taxes taken yet his prospect was that he should suffer a loss instead of securing a benefit from the performance, but that if he could get a patriotic song adapted to the tune of the "President's March" - then he popular air he did not doubt of a full house, that the poets of the theatrical Corps had been trying to accomplish it, but were satisfied that no words could be composed to suit the music of that March. I told him I would try for him. He came the next afternoon and the song, such as it is, was ready for him. It was announced on Monday morning and the Theatre was crowded to its cells and so continued night after night for the rest of that season, the song being encored & repeated many times each night the audience forming in the Chorus. It was also sung at night through the streets by large assemblies of people, including members of Congress. The enthusiasm was general, and the song was heard, I may say, in every part of the United States.

The object of the Author was to get up an American spirit, which should be independent of and above the interests, passions and policy of both belligerents, and look and feel exclusively for our own honour and rights. Not an allusion is made either to France or England or the quarrel between them or to which was the most in fault in their treatment of us. Of course the song found favour with both parties, at least neither could disavow sentiments it inculcated. It was truly American and nothing else, and the patriotic feeling of every American heart responded to it.

Such is the history of this song, which has endured unimpaired beyond any expectation of the Author, and beyond any merit boast of except that of being truly and exclusively patriotic in its sentiments and spirit.

The song was written (Aug 24. 1840) at the request of the "Wormy Band" at Wilkesbarre, who had requested the Author to give them an account of the occasion for which "Hail Columbia" was composed for the

Enlarge

IN CONGRESS.

The DELEGATES of the UNITED STATES of *New-Hampshire, Massachusetts-Bay, Rhode-Island, Connetlicut, New-York, New-Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North-Carolina, South-Carolina, and Georgia,* TO — — — — —

Benedict Arnold Esquire

WE, reposing especial Trust and Confidence in your Patriotism, Valour, Conduct and Fidelity, DO, by these Presents, constitute and appoint you to be — — — — —

Major General

in the Army of the United States, raised for the Defence of American Liberty, and for repelling every hostile Invasion thereof. You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of *Major General* by doing and performing all manner of Things thereunto belonging. And we do strictly charge and require all Officers and Soldiers under your Command, to be obedient to your Orders as *Major General*. And you are to observe and follow such Orders and Directions from Time to Time, as you shall receive from this or a future Congress of the United States, or Committee of Congress, for that Purpose appointed, or Commander in Chief for the Time being of the Army of the United States, or any other your superior Officer, according to the Rules and Discipline of War, in Pursuance of the Trust reposed in you. This Commission to continue in Force until revoked by this or a future Congress.

DATED at *Philadelphia May 2^d 1777*

By Order of the CONGRESS,

ATTEST. *Chas Thomson Esq*

John Hancock

PRESIDENT.

PLATE

Enlarge

Profile of Thomas Moore
the Poet.Cut at the
Philadelphia MuseumNew York Monday July 2nd 1802

My dear Denny. I have scarcely found a moments leisure since I left my friends in Philadelphia to tell how warmly I remember them and how much I regret the very hopeless farewell I have taken - but I trust they will do me the justice to believe that they live in my recollection and thus over the wide waters of the Atlantic shall be no letter to the landings of my gratitude ~~the~~ The Falls of the Niagara delighted me extremely & I feel quite indebted to Mr Meredith for having urged me to visit them - Niagara (~~which~~ I have resumed my resolution to see) must be almost too tremendous to produce of nature to an eye almost painful or that I have some kind of kindred affection for her miniature productions but certainly I rather read such grandeur as those of Niagara, and turn with more pleasure to the "minora sidera" of Creation - You remember Athenside - But Wallers songs all on the margin be & -

I have mentioned you *comme se faut* in a letter to Mrs Perry. which (as you will have a formal presentation from Thornton) is, I think the most certain way of making you an "in grege" at once -

Tomorrow I think of setting out for Albany and shall be obliged I suppose to give up all expectation of hearing from you till I reach Halifax when you must direct for me "to the care of S^r Andrew Mitchell R B & Co -

I shall have but time now to tomorrow you a little poem which I wrote on my way from Philadelphia and which I beg you will give to Mrs Hopkinson with my best regards at the same time to her and her very amiable husband - I am looking anxiously for Every -

Yours my dear Denny
very sincerely
Thomas Moore

Enlarge

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